

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01264 181828Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 /074 W

----- 006367

R 181750Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7237

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1264

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: THE EMBASSY AND THE CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

1. SUMMARY: FROM TIME TO TIME GOC "CONCERN" REGARDING THE EMBASSY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILE'S CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SURFACES. WE SEE THIS CONCERN AS EXAGGERATED AND LARGELY A REFLECTION OF GOC'S OWN INSECURITY. WE BELIEVE A GOOD, CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PDC IS IN US INTEREST, AND INTEND TO MAINTAIN PRESENT RELATIONSHIPS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EMBASSY OVER THE PAST MONTH OR TWO HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS OF CONCERN FROM GOC LEADERS OR SUPPORTERS AT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND CHILE'S CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC). DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE COMMENTS OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET (SANTIAGO 904), ESSENCE OF WHICH WAS REPEATED TO DCM ON FEB 13, AND OF SENIOR AIR FORCE GENERAL (SANTIAGO 1039). A VISITING CONGRESSIONAL STAFF AIDE (SEPTTEL) RECEIVED SIMILAR COMMENTS FROM ECONOMY MINISTER DE CASTRO LAST WEEK, AND THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER INDICATIONS OF GOC CONCERN.

3. THE EMBASSY IS IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH PDC AT VARIOUS LEVELS, AS IT IS WITH OTHER DEMOCRATIC GROUPS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE IN OPPOSITION TO PRESENT GOC, AND WITH OTHER CHILEAN OPINION MOLDERS. AMBASSADOR SEES EX-PRESIDENT FREI OCCASIONALLY; MEETINGS WITH HIM ARE ALWAYS HANDLED DISCREETLY. PDC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01264 181828Z

PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN IS SEEN LESS OFTEN; A MEETING DURING THE FEBRUARY VISIT OF COUNTRY DIRECTOR FIMBRES WAS

THE FIRST WITH HIM IN A LONG TIME. EMBOFFS SEE PDC SECRETARY RAFAEL MORENO AND A FEW OTHER LEADERS FAIRLY OFTEN, BUT BY NO MEANS ON A DAILY OR EVEN WEEKLY BASIS. LABATT AND AIFLD DIRECTOR ALSO ARE IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH LABOR LEADERS BELONGING TO PDC. VARIOUS CIVILIAN OFFICERS OF THE MISSION OF COURSE SEE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS OR SUPPORTERS CONSTANTLY IN THE COURSE OF THEIR NORMAL DUTIES AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. THE PDC IS A PART OF THE CHILEAN ESTABLISHMENT AND SOCIETY; CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TEND TO BE CONGENIAL AND WELL INFORMED, AND PERSONAL CONTACT IS EASY AND NORMAL.

4. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PDC IS USEFUL AND CONSISTENT WITH THE US INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN CHILE. MISSION OFFICERS ARE DISCREET IN WHAT THEY SAY TO PDC PEOPLE AND DO NOT ENCOURAGE THEM TO EXPECT MORE FROM THE RELATIONSHIP THAN IS REALISTIC.

5. SEVERAL FACTOS ARE PROBABLY REFLECTED IN CURRENT GOC CONCERN:

A) WIDE PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ARTICLE ON CHILE IN "NATIONAL REVIEW" BY LONDON "ECONOMIST'S" ROBERT MOSS. WRITER IS A SYMPATHETIC CRITIC OF GOC WHO KNOWS SCENE WELL. HE WAS NOTABLY IN ERROR, HOWEVER, IN WRITING THAT EMBASSY SEES PDC AS "THE AMERICAN PARTY" AND AS PRIMARY HOPE FOR CHILE'S FUTURE; HE WAS EVEN FURTHER OFF IN SAYING EMBASSY HAS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH PDC LEFT WING: IN FACT, WE SELDOM SEE THE LEFT, AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW US BETTER.

B) FOR OWN REASONS, PDC PROBABLY MAGNIFIES EXTENT AND IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH EMBASSY, AND WHATEVER PDC SAYS ABOUT US AROUND TOWN IS IN TURN MAGNIFIED IN REPORTS TO GOC LEADERS.

C) GOC SECURITY SERVICES KNOW EMBASSY IS IN TOUCH WITH PDC, AND WE ASSUME THEIR REPORTS, ACCURACY OF WHICH WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR BUT HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IS DUBIOUS, GET TO GOC LEADERS. GOC ALSO KNOWS THAT PDC HAS ACCESS TO US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND PROBABLY BELIEVES THAT ACCESS MEANS MORE THAN IT ACTUALLY DOES.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 01264 181828Z

D) GOC WAS DISCOMFITED AND CONCERNED OVER PUBLICITY ATTAINED BY FREI'S ANTI-GOVERNMENT PAMPHLET AND WHAT NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FALSE THOUGH WIDELY PUBLICIZED REPORT RE DISSENSION WITHIN ARMED FORCES. CURRENTLY, GOC LEADERS SEE PDC AS VIRULENT ENEMY OUT TO GET THEM. USG CRITICIZES GOC ON MANY OF SAME GROUNDS AS DOES PDC. ERGO, EMBASSY AND PDC MUST BE COOPERATING. IN EFFECT, GOC'S CONCERNS RE EMBASSY ATTITUDE HAVE SURFACED IN TANDEM WITH PDC CRITICISMS OF JUNTA.

6. EMBASSY REPLIES IN REASONED WAY TO MISSTATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT MAKES CLEAR THAT CONTACTS WITH PDC WILL BE MAINTAINED. IN ADDITION TO POINT MADE IN PARA FOUR ABOVE, WE THINK GOC SHOULD BE AWARE THAT USG INTENDS TO KEEP ITS LINES OPEN TO DEMOCRATIC FORCES THAT HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN CHILE'S FUTURE.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHRISTIANS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA01264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760061-0752
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760239/aaaabhtj.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE EMBASSY AND THE CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006